

CITY OF MEMPHIS, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
MEMPHIS CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING
November 5, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Lowery called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The following members of the Board, constituting a quorum, were present: Willie Brooks, Marsha Campbell, Sylvia Cox, Myron Lowery and Sharon Webb. George Brown Jr. and Janice Fullilove were absent.

Others in attendance: Ricky E. Wilkins, Law Offices of Ricky E. Wilkins; Elbert Jefferson, City Attorney Zayid Saleem, City of Memphis Assistant City Attorney's; Bridgett Handy-Clay, City of Memphis Public Records Coordinator; among others.

MINUTES: Chairman Lowery noted that copies of the minutes from the Board's meeting of August 21, 2008, had been circulated prior to the meeting and asked if there were any changes or corrections. Commissioner Webb noted that on page 2 a correction is needed to state Janice Fullilove was absent and she was present. Noting this change, the minutes were approved.

DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY VOTERS

Chairman Lowery recapped the City Charter Amendments approved by voters in the November 2008 election, noting that Ordinance 5232 and 5265 passed by the City Council were approved.

The approved Amendments are as follow:

1. Term limits - Limiting Council and Mayor to 2 Terms
2. Staggered terms for City Council members
3. The sale MLGW must be approved by referendum
4. An elected official charged with official malfeasance shall be suspended with pay pending resolution of the matter
5. Instant Runoff Voting approved
6. Procedure to fill a vacancy in office of the Mayor

The Commissioners expressed their satisfaction with results of the election. Chairman Lowery then called on County Commissioner Steve Mulroy for comments concerning instant runoff voting.

Commissioner Brooks expressed concern about procedure to fill a vacancy in court clerk office and mayors due to charge of malfeasance (mayor) - problem "suspension with pay" and possible return to office may not constitute a vacancy. The Charter Commission will request the City Council address this issue.

DISCUSSION OF CHARTER CLEAN-UP BY MTAS

Chairman Lowery noted that the final work performed by Mr. Steve Lobertini would be posted on Charter Commission website. He noted that the former City Attorney and volunteers from Bar Association offered no negative feedback. He asked the Commissioners to review the changes and be prepared to vote on them at the December 9th meeting. In closing, the Chairman stated that the Charter Commission will cease to exist after December 31, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chairman Lowery thanked everyone for attending and stated that the next meeting dates are December 9, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Bridgett Handy-Clay